

Amendments to the Drawings:

A replacement sheet containing Fig. 4 is enclosed, in which reference character "J" is changed to "I". The amendment to Fig. 4 is supported by the disclosure in paragraph [0023] of the English translation of the specification.

Attachments: Replacement sheet (Figs. 3-5)

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 11, 13, 15, 17, and 19-26 are pending in this application. Claims 12, 14, 16, and 18 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Independent claims 1 and 19 have been amended to incorporate partial features in claim 16. New claims 21-23 have been added, which are supported by previously presented claims 13, 15, and 17. New claims 24-26 are supported by original claims 11, 15, 16, and 18. No new matter has been added.

Reconsideration of the subject application in view of the above amendments is hereby respectfully requested.

Overview of the Office Action

The drawings have been objected to for including the character reference "J" not mentioned in the specification.

Claims 11-20 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over US Patent 6,327,922 to Kondratuk.

Amendments Addressing Informalities

Fig. 4 has been amended to change reference character "J" to "I". The amendment to Fig. 4 is supported by the disclosure in paragraph [0023] of the English translation of the specification.

The drawing objection is believed to have been overcome in view of such amendment.

Patentability of the Claimed Invention

Independent Claims 11 and 19

Independent claims 11 and 19 each recites, at least, that "the attachment device comprises a first insert flange integrally connected to the contact portion." The above claim features are recited in the previously presented claim 16.

In rejecting claim 16, which has now been incorporated in independent claim 11, the Office Action acknowledges that “Kondratuk does not disclose the transition area having a contact portion, or the [first] insert flange being integrally connected to the contact portion” (see page 6 of the Office Action). The Office Action then takes the position that:

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to move the flanges [42] from the side wall to the transition area. Doing so would have the flange contacting the end of the cylinder 56 at the end, much like the orientation and arrangement shown in the instant figure 11. *Id.*

Applicant disagrees with the above position because the proposed modification to flange 42 of Kondratuk will render Kondratuk inoperable for its intended purpose as submitted below.

Kondratuk teaches that:

The end cap 40 includes flanges 42 protruding inward to engage an annular channel 52 formed in the inner cap 50. The end cap 40 has a snap-in type assembly to mount to the inner cap 50. The flanges 42 ride in the channel 52 to provide relative rotation between the end cap 40 and the inner cap 50. (Col. 4, ln. 67 to col. 5, ln. 5.)

Based on the above teachings of Kondratuk, one skilled in the art will appreciate that the flange 42 on Kondratuk’s end cap 40 is provided to rotatably mount the end cap 42 onto the inner cap 50. Such connection provides relative rotation between the end cap 40 and the inner cap 50, which is explicitly required in Kondratuk. *Id.* If the flange 42 in Kondratuk is moved to the alleged transition area of Kondratuk and contact the end of the perpendicular surface 56 of the inner cap 50, as proposed in the Office Action, then the rotational coupling between the end cap 40 and the inner cap 50 in Kondratuk will be destroyed. Consequently, such modification of Kondratuk will render Kondratuk unsatisfactory for its intended purpose and is thus prohibited. See, MPEP § 2143.01V.

In view of all the above, one skilled in the art will not modify Kondratuk to relocate the flange 42 as proposed in the Office Action, in order to arrive at the claimed invention. Therefore, independent claims 11 and 19 are not obvious over Kondratuk and are allowable.

Dependent Claims 13, 15, 17, and 21-23

Claims 13, 15, 17, and 21-23 depend, directly or indirectly, from allowable independent claim 1 or 19. Therefore, claims 13, 15, 17, and 21-23 are each allowable for at least the same reasons that independent claim 1 or 19 is allowable.

In addition, claims 13, 15, 17, and 21-23 include features which serve to even more clearly distinguish the claimed invention over the prior art of record.

New Claims 24-26

Similar to independent claims 11 and 19, new independent claim 24 recites "an attachment device ... comprising ... a first insert flange integrally connected to a contact portion of the cover housing." Therefore, new independent claim 24 and its dependent claims 25-26 are allowable for at least the same reasons that independent claim 11 or 19 is allowable.

Conclusion

Based on all of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is now in proper condition for allowance. Prompt and favorable action to this effect and early passing of this application to issue are respectfully solicited.

No fees or charges are required at this time in connection with the present application. However, if any fees or charges are required at this time, they may be charged to our Patent and Trademark Office Deposit Account No. 03-2412.

Respectfully submitted,
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